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MONTEREY NEWS

January, 1980

O U R T O W N

Special Town Meeting in January

A special Town meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 30, at 7:30 P.M. in the social room of the church. As always, most of the business involves transfer of funds out of the Treasury and into various accounts. A summary of the recommended transfers with brief explanations follows here : 1) $628.27 to the Reserve Account to pay for the interest on a note issued by the Town Treasurer for the purchase of the fire truck. 2) $25.55 into the Health Insurance Account. 3) $500 into the Parks Commission Account. 4) $150 into the Inspector of Wires Account. 5) $2,000 into the Town Garage Account (to cover increase in fuel costs.) 6) $2,847.96 into the Treasury from available funds to pay for an unpaid balance due for the audit of Town financial records. 7) $2,621.95 from available funds into the Treasury to pay for an unpaid balance due on the fire truck purchased in 1976. 8) $53,104 from available funds into the Treasury to rectify an overdraft of $40,104 in the Chapter 81 Highways Account and an overdraft of $13,000 in the Conservation Commission Land Purchase Account as per the Audit Report of June 30, 1978.

Other items on the Warrant include the recommendations of the Salary Commission for salary raises for Town Highway Department employees, a request by the Selectmen for empowerment to sell the Town's 1964 International Truck and a request for an easement for drainage under Route 57 from Habert's Cove.

All registered voters are urged to attend.

Radiation Monitoring

The State Director of the Bureau of Radiation Control and an Assistant Engineer of Radiological Health met with the Board of Selectmen and a group of concerned citizens on Monday evening, January 7, in the Selectmen's office. The meeting was in response to correspondence between the Selectmen and the State Department of Public Health regarding independent monitoring of radio-active materials within Monterey. Presently, monitoring is done by the State, the National Radiation Control Board and the utility company which owns the nuclear reactors at Rowe and Plymouth. It is done bi-weekly, monthly and quarterly, and results are compared by the three agencies. All data is available in the Sandisfield Community College Reading Room and, effective immediately, will be sent to Monterey as well. Testing is done within about twelve miles of each site. Recently a "background station" was installed in Williamstown. In addition the Department of Water Quality Engineering is taking water samples for testing. The results of DPH testing have been, according to the officials present, "lower than expected." The average background radiation (emitted routinely by such substances as granite and concrete) should be 100-150 MR (cumulative reading.) Readings around Rowe have been about 8 MR per month.

In the event of a serious accident at a power plant towns lying within 10 to 50 miles of any plant would be monitored in terms of days after the accident, depending on their distance from the site and "on which way the wind is blowing." The kinds of protective action necessary would involve analysis of what is called the "ingestion pathway," the settling out of radiation into vegetation and water, its ingestion by cows, its uptake by crops, etc. Until such an accident occurs, the officials see no reason why and no mechanism by which monitoring can be done within the boundaries of the Town of Monterey.

In the case of a radioactive transportation accident in Monterey the State Police should be called in, and in the meantime first aid measures using Civil Defense Geiger counters should be applied.

Monterey Energy Project

The Monterey Energy Project met Thursday, January 10, to discuss business and to hear two presentations by people from the County on Hydroelectric Power. The first presentation was by Mary Heather from Stockbridge. She and her brother have restored an old generating plant on the Housatonic River in Glendale. It will generate 500 kilowatts and will supply the needs of 250 houses in the area. The second presentation was by Joe Zitka of East Otis who for the last 25 years has supplied his own electrical needs (including all electric heat) by means of a water wheel which gene-

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rates from 2 to 8 kilowatts. Possibilities for generation of electricity by water power in Monterey were discussed. Peter Minkett measured the potential of a stream near Wallace Hall Road and found that it could at times of good water flow supply the needs of about seven houses. Ned Nisson of CET in Pittsfield gave the criterions for determining the hydroelectric potential of local streams. Further investigation in Monterey will be accomplished by committee members.

Of the energy questionnaires sent out by the Project, about 20% have been returned. Mechanisms by which the remainder may be obtained are being initiated. The development of an Appropriate Technology Small Grants Proposal is being undertaken by members of the Project, in consultation with CET. A second meeting of the Project was held Thursday, January 17, too late to be reported here. A meeting scheduled for February will include presentations on possibilities for power generated by wind.

New Ownership for the General Store

The General Store has been sold once again. It is closed for the winter, being remodeled and refurbished. It will open in early spring with a Bicentennial Celebration marking its 200th year of existence. It will be managed by one of its new owners, Linda Hoch, who with her husband Bill, is moving to Monterey from Connecticut. Plans for the store include a full line of groceries and produce, a bakery, a line of hardware, gifts and crafts. Linda will operate a café serving breakfast and lunch daily and dinner a few nights a week. The owners hope the store will become a point of commerce and activity for the town. They intend to carry produce grown locally during the summer. The name of the store is now officially The Monterey General Store, Ltd.

Dog Warden Comes for Confined Dogs Only

The Board of Selectmen has announced that people who report stray dogs to be picked up by the Dog Warden must confine or tie the dog before calling the Dog Warden. The Town is billed for every trip he makes to Monterey and often by the time he arrives the offending dog is gone.

Audio-Visual Presentation Scheduled for February

Gordon Davidson and Corinne McLaughlin of the Sirius Community in Amherst will make a presentation on "The Spiritual Heritage and Destiny of America" on Friday, February 1 at 7:30 p.m. in the church social room. This is the second presentation by the two former members of the Findhorn Community in Scotland. The first, on "New Age Communities" was enthusiastically received and well attended.

Weekly Classes in Monterey

Classes offered by practitioners of the Church of Christ Consciousness in the Monterey area started Monday, January 14. Still to come are the Prayer Healing Group with Peter Schulse (Wednesday, January 23, 7:30-9:00, and Graf Body Systems with Paul Zerre, Friday, February 1, 7:30-9:30. For information on content and costs call 229-8898 or 528-1337.

CATHOLIC CHURCHES

Masses Schedule: Our Lady of the Valley, Sheffield, Saturday, 5:30 p.m., Sunday, 7:30 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m. Immaculate Conception, Mill River, Sunday, 10:00 a.m.

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Morning worship each Sunday at 10:30 a.m. During the winter months services are being held in the social room.

Annual Meeting

The annual meeting of the congregation is being held on Sunday, January 20 beginning with the morning worship. The meeting continues following the worship and concludes with a covered dish dinner at noon. Reports are heard and received, the budget acted upon and officers elected. Any other appropriate business may come before the meeting.

Choir Revived

For quite a period we have been without a choir for regular morning worship. Now the persons to keep the choir singing are available and we expect to have a choir most Sundays. This is a cause for lifting up our voices with singing and gladness.

Hunger Project

Our church has taken an active role in concern and caring about the great problem of world hunger. Late in 1979 offerings were taken especially for Cambodian relief. Word is coming through that programs now being administered are making a great difference. Cambodia is beginning to have hope again. The One Great Hour of Sharing to be received during Lent will also [illegible] world hunger.

INCLUSIVENESS AND INTEGRITY

(An abbreviated statement of Dr. Brallier's annual report to the Monterey Church)

How the Church relates to the world is of great importance. Historical study reveals that there have been many alternations in the way the Church handles the issue of inclusiveness and exclusiveness. When the Church is inclusiveness it is concentrating on being "the yeast that leavens the whole loaf." When it emphasizes exclusiveness it is concerned with maintaining its own purity. The paradox of a vital church is that it needs each emphasis without neglecting the other . To be inclusive without concern for its own integrity is to lose its distinction from the culture in which it exists. To be so concerned for its own purity that it loses touch with the common life is to be untrue to its mission to bring all creation under the sway of Christ.

I believe that the stance this age requires of the Church is one that is inclusive beyond anything we have yet imagined, and yet with the care and capacity to maintain integrity to the purpose and mission to which our Lord called us. Someone may protest this as an utter impossibility. Another will say, "You must choose between them. You can't have it both ways." This is not an easy way to be positioned, yet I see no way we can serve this present age with anything less.

Specifically, what would this look like in Monterey? I imagine a Monterey Church that is so inclusive that it regards everyone in our town as being in some degree within our concern and encouragement. Not that I foresee great numbers of people becoming members or even contributors to the church. Yet the influence and interplay with the whole community can and should be much deeper than is possible under our current way of imaging ourselves. In time I believe our current image of ourselves will appear to be quite exclusive -- even though none of us now would use that term to describe our stance.

Inclusiveness is a two-way street. It must include receiving as well as giving. There is a richness of spirit in the whole community we must receive into our common life. Inclusiveness is no problem if we think only of what we would give. It instantly becomes a different proposition when we think of receiving into our common life the rich variety of gifts of those who do not "see" in tha same way we see. Here is where the agonies over maintaining purity have so often come into the Church -- and often the flow of life has been choked off at this point. I recall the poem, the source of which I cannot now locate, regarding the juggler and our Lady. It begins with the poet's sense of being scandalized at seeing a juggler going through his routine in a chapel dedicated to Mary. His first thought was to drive out of the chapel this sacrilegious demonstration. Upon deeper reflection he saw that a precious gift was being given -- the one skill this man possessed.

Why is this issue of inclusiveness such a critical one -- right now -- and why for the Monterey Church? Surely it is no secret by now that an old age is dying. The signs of its death throes face us on all sides. Our whole culture is "being held together with baling wire," as we used to say of patch-up repairs on the farm. Would that we were as able to see the tender sprouts of a new age emerging as we are to see the signs of death spreading over the age we know best. Somewhere scattered in among the tender new sproutings coming up all around us is the stuff from which a new age is taking form. I believe that Monterey is producing many of these new sprouts. The material -- yes, the spiritual elements -- from which the new age will take its form may already be growing in our midst.

I am speaking of the way the church in Monterey positions itself toward these new growths. Many new growths die away quickly. The truth is not within them. Yet among the new growths are those that will necessarily hold the true pattern for the new age in them.

The nature of life on this earth is that the spiritual must take concrete forms. This is what "earth life"is allabout. The spiritual is tested out -- experimented with -- in the dramas that occur within the forms we create. Let me name some of the forms currently coming into strong focus in the Monterey community: (1) The movement toward a much more intimate rootedness in the earth, manifesting itself in energy concerns, nutrition, solar and other living designs. (2) Health and healing viewed from a spiritual more than our traditional medical model. (3) New understandings of the spiritual as an interconnectedness of all life forms. These are the most prominent evidences of "new age" patterns gaining strength in the Monterey consciousness. There are others. These forms of consciousness do not ordinarily speak the traditional language of the Church, but unmistakably they are intimately related to spiritual life.

How are we to position ourselves to these new spiritual emergences? We could rush in seeking to convert them to our language and thought forms. This would be a disaster course. We need at this time much more interaction with these emerging consciousnesses and learning from them. Yes, even more to stand in a position of care and encouragement as they find their way into our common life. It is precisely at this point that the concern for purity and exclusiveness comes in. Can we risk giving care and encouragement to something that may not fully agree with our understanding of Christ?

How shall we position ourselves? The words of Gamaliel come to us with great force and relevance. The young Church was encountering much anger and fear from the religious establishment within which the Church was rooted. It wanted blood. This wise

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INCLUSIVENESS AND INTEGRITY (continued)

Pharisee asked the Council To restrain itself from such righteous murderous action. He spoke these words to his colleagues: "Let these men alone; for if this plan or this understanding is of men , it will fail; but if it is of God you will not be able to overthrow them. You might even be found opposing God!"

This is sound faith. It is a wise model for dealing with new emergences in the life of the spirit . God is so much greater than our systems. When we leave the life and death of our systems of faith in the hands of God, can any safer way be found?

Virgil V. Brallier, Minister
Monterey United Church of Christ

The Christmas celebration began on the evening of December 18 when the Monterey singers including a dozen of us from the Farm, went around the village caroling. We ended at the Farm with hot cocoa and cookies. The following evening our local group visited the cottages on this campus. On the 20th we had the monthly birthday tea and a play called "Paddy's Christmas," which had been coached by Sally Kelly. (Paddy is a bear.) We went up the hill as usual for our Christmas tree. There was singing and story-telling. Alexander Dreier read "The Legend of the Christmas Rose." On the 22nd the Dreiers presented a Miracle Play, based on the story of the nativity. The players had learned long and sometimes difficult parts. The costuming and staging were dignified and moving and the general effect was lovely.

Harriet M. Phillips

The holidays continued in grand style with a festive Christmas Eve ham dinner. We served 95 people, quite a large number, considering some people had gone home. That evening we had a worship service in the living room with an excellent chorus of children and adults, directed by Nancy Loder. We all contributed gifts for Viet Nam refugees. Then we went to see the living-creche at the barn. Our tree was a large one, full and tall. It was decorated with cranberry and popcorn strings, made by the guests and staff. Christmas Day was delightful, with a delicious turkey dinner for 90 people, served at noon-time. There were church services in Monterey and Great Barrington which a number of people attended. Christmas night was quite a special time because Kent and Nancy Smith had a party for all members of the Farm. We all enjoyed Nancy's hospitality and, of course, more good food. On the 27th there was a puppet show by the Dreiers.

The rest of the week was spent in preparation for New Year's. Lots of baking and cooking took place. On New Year's Eve Kent Smith gave a fine service which many attended. Later on in the evening many events, games and a dance were planned. Quite a few made it through until midnight to see the New Year in. On New Year's Day we all enjoyed a roast beef dinner and, later on, an open house at the Burkholders'.

We have some wonderful memories of a very happy holiday season. We all consider ourselves fortunate to be members of such a fine place.

Marjorie Rowell

MONTEREY GRANGE #291

On Monterey Grange International Night the Rev. Raymond Ward narrated a very interesting and educational program of slides on his recent visit to India. Malcolm Somer, a member of the State Conservation Committee, was present and outlined the projects and contests for the coming year.

Due to the illness of some members, the annual Christmas Program, scheduled for December 15, was cancelled. It will be scheduled at a later date.

The last meeting was on Wednesday, January 16. Pirate Bingo was played.

Mary Wallace
Lecturer

Great Barrington Camera Club: The Camera Club has held two meetings since last reported. On December 12, at the St. James Parish Hall, the Camera Club held its annual Christmas party, a punch and potluck supper. A slide presentation on Cambodia was given by club president John Hoyt. The Camera Club also met on January 9 at the Parish Hall. The program for the meeting dealt with lighting and exposure. This presentation was lectured on by Nicholas DeCandia from Berkshire Community College in Pittsfield.

BOY SCOUTS

Cub Scouts: the Wolves and the Bears are currently working on their Olympic Team Good Turn patch, sponsored by the Boy Scouts and Coca-Cola. The goal of this patch is to help th United States Olympic Team by fulfilling three requirements. They are: 1) to donate one dollar of their own money to the U.S. Olympic Team. 2) to participate in a physical fitness activity (the Bears' activity is gymnastics.) 3) to be aware of service to others and pride in America. Also, since 1980 is the 50th anniversary of Cub Scouting, the week of February 3-9 has been designated as Scouting Anniversary Week. On February 8 all Cub Scouts will wear their uniforms on Cub Scout Uniform Day. On February 15, at 6:00 p.m., in the American Legion Hall in New Marlborough Pack #51 will hold its pack meeting. This meeting will be a covered dish supper, and each family is asked to bring a dish and its own place settings. Besides the Olympic patch, the Bears have been involved in numerous other activities. On December 21 they joined the Wolf Den and went to the Willowwood Nursing Home, visiting with the patients. The Bears are also working on their Bear Achievements. On January 10 they went skating on the Browns' pond. On January 24 the Bears will go on a historical tour of the area. Also, for the Christmas season, the Bears sent Christmas to the hostages in Iran.

GIRL SCOUTS

Brownies: In early December the Brownies of Troop 237 started their preparations for Christmas. First they began by creating jewelry boxes out of pill boxes. They cut out pictures from magazines for the tops and glued felt inside. On December 6 the troop traveled to New Marlborough to meet the other youth groups at the American Legion Hall for a Christmas Workshop. The girls got a chance to make many different holiday decorations and had themselves a good time. On December 20 they completed their jewelry boxes by trimming them with glitter, and they made Christmas wreath pins out of felt. The troop resumed its meetings after the Christmas vacation on January 10. They talked about winter, read some beautiful poems about winter and took a walk looking for various signs of the season. At the next meeting the girls are going to write some poetry of their own.

YOUTH GROUP

Since the division of the Youth Group, both groups have been performing organizational operations. The Junior group plans to hold its elections on Sunday, January 27. The group of older members held a special meeting on January 20 for organization and basic restructuring of the group. Both of the groups held their own bowling parties in early January. Both sections are also involved in the distribution of the Monterey News.

Kevin Bradley
Youth Editor

D O L L

Sweetly dressed in calico,

young face pale and fixed,

glossy eyes, soft hair,

straight legs and open hands.

Sold to slavery,

gift to whim,

nourished, starved,

kissed, abused,

carried, killed:

but never dies.

Susan McAllester

P E R S O N A L S

Mrs. George Hopkins (Aunt Mamie) who spent the month of July for the past 17 years with her cousin, Miss Marion Clark, at Bracken Brae Farm, died at her home in New York on December 24, 1979. More than 60 relatives, friends and Monterey neighbors celebrated Mrs. Hopkins' 100th birthday with her here on July 20, 1979.

A C K N O W L E D G M E N T S

The tide of contributions continues to flow in and we continue to be exceedingly grateful. The following names were somehow omitted in the December acknowledgments: M/M Claude Burke, M/m John Camp, Stella Howes. Our apologies. Contributions received since the last issue were from Peter Amidon, Drs. Owen & Bebe Bernstein, M/M Thomas Bradley, Virginia Cesario, Leona Chamberlin, Kathryn Clark, Mrs. Milton Cohen, M/M Arnold Cohen, Paul Desfosse, Amy Enoe, M/M Paul Gelbard, Daniel Gildesgame, M/M Morton Goodman, Harris Hinchcliff, Carolee Jervas, George Kisselbrock, M/M Ed Klepps, John Lambert, Suzanne MacIver, Nancy Maglione M/M Donald Mott M/M Denis O'Connor, M/M William Pasco. M/M A. Robbins, M/M Richard Rodgers Andrew Scheffey, Jacob Sharefkin, Leonard Simmons, Lucy Smith, the Steinberg Family, Rev. & Mrs. Arthur K. Wing III, Mrs. Sonny Winter & M/M Ronald Sturtz. Many thanks to all of you!

REQUESTS FOR "PERSONALS"

We have received requests to print more "Personals" in our columns. The only way we can do this is if they are mailed or telephoned in to us by our readers. So please if you know any items of particular interest about our year-round or summer residents let Patricia Howard know about them at Box 105, Monterey -- telephone: 528-4879. Thank you.

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